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Attorney Docket No.: 101.019 Express Mail Label No.: EF283799697US

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 An item comprising:

1	1. An item, comprising:
2	an item surface; and
3	a plurality of machine-readable item codes printed on the item surface, at least
4	one of the item codes being associated with the item and being substantially invisible to a
5	human.

- 2. The item of claim 1, wherein each of the item codes are associated with the 1 2 item and are substantially invisible to a human.
- 3. The item of claim 1, wherein at least two of the item codes contain the same 1 2 information.
 - 4. The item of claim 1, wherein at least two of the item codes contain different information.
- 5. The item of claim 4, wherein the different information is adapted to be 1 2 combined via at least one of: (i) a sequence number in each item code; (ii) at least one item code describing an order in which at least one other item code should be combined, 3 and (iii) a position of the item codes on the item surface. 4
- 6. The item of claim 4, wherein at least one item code contains meta-data 1 2 associated with at least one other item code.

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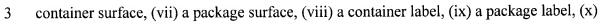
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1	7. The method of claim 4, wherein the at least two of the item codes containing
2	different information are printed on the item surface via different techniques to render the
3	item codes substantially invisible to a human.

- 8. The item of claim 1, wherein at least one item code comprises: (i) a bar code, (ii) a two-dimensional code, and (iii) a watermark.
- 9. The item of claim 1, wherein at least one item code indicates at least one of: (i)
 an item identifier, (ii) a manufacturer identifier, (iii) a distributor identifier, (iv) a delivery
 service identifier, (v) a purchaser identifier, (vi) an owner identifier, (vii) a user identifier,
 and (viii) a merchant identifier.
 - 10. The item of claim 1, wherein at least one item code is adapted for use with at least one of: (i) a point of sale system, (ii) an inventory system, (iii) a delivery service system, (iv) an identification system, (v) a warehousing system, (vi) a smart shopping cart system, (vii) a production system, and (viii) an assembly system.
 - 11. The item of claim 1, wherein at least one item code is formed using at least one of: (i) a chemical, (ii) an invisible ink, (iii) an ink that becomes visible in ultra-violet light, and (iv) an ink detectable with radiation outside of the visible spectrum.
- 1 12. The item of claim 1, wherein the item comprises at least one of: (i) a product, 2 (ii) an identification card, (iii) a negotiable instrument, (iv) a container, (v) a package, 3 (vi) an envelope, (vii) an event ticket, and (viii) a document.
- 1 13. The item of claim 1, wherein the item surface comprises at least one of: (i) a product surface, (ii) a product label, (iii) a product tag, (iv) a picture, (v) an image, (vi) a



- 4 a container tag, and (xi) a package tag.
- 1 14. The item of claim 1, wherein the item has two distinct item surface areas, and 2 at least one item code is printed each distinct item surface area.
- 1 15. The item of claim 1, wherein visible information is displayed on the same 2 area of the item surface as at least one item code.
- 1 16. An identification card associated with a card-holder, comprising:
- 2 an identification card surface; and
- a machine-readable code printed on the identification card surface, the code being
- 4 associated with the card-holder and being substantially invisible to a human.
- 1 17. The identification card of claim 16, wherein the code indicates at least one of: 2 (i) a card-holder identifier, (ii) a benefit, and (iii) an expiration date.
- 1 18. The identification card of claim 16, wherein visible information is displayed 2 on the same area of the identification card as the code.
- 1 19. The identification card of claim 15, wherein a plurality of codes are printed 2 on the identification card surface, each of the codes being associated with the card-holder 3 and being substantially invisible to a human.

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1	20. An item, comprising:
2	an item surface; and
3	a machine-readable item code printed on the item surface, the item code being
4	associated with the item and being substantially invisible to a human, wherein the item
5	code is updated by a user.
1	21. The item of claim 20, wherein the item code is updated by the user to indicate
2	information associated with at least one of: (i) a delivery service, (ii) a location, (iii) a
3	time, (iv) a date, (v) a price, (vi) a merchant, (vii) a purchaser, (viii) an item status, (ix) a
4	warranty, (x) a product, (xi) logistics, (xii) a tax, (xiii) a fee, (xiv) a duty, (xv) an
5 ′	inspection, (xvi) a packing slip, (xvii) a picking slip, (xviii) a bill, (xix) an order status,
6	(xx) a product expiration, (xxi) a repair history, (xxii) a maintenance history, (xxiii) a
7	warranty, and (xxiv) a provenance.
1	22. The item of claim 20, wherein a plurality of item codes are printed on the
2	item surface, at least one of the item codes being associated with the item and being
3	substantially invisible to a human.
1	23. An item, comprising:
2	an item surface; and
3	a machine-readable item code printed on the item surface, the item code being
4	substantially invisible to a human and indicating at least one of: (i) information

associated with use of the item, (ii) information associated with consumption of the item,

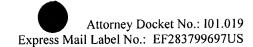
(iii) instructions associated with the item, (iv) executable information associated with the

item, (v) updates to adjust executable information associated with the item, (vi)

instructions associated with assembling of the item, (vii) instructions associated with

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- processing the item, (viii) marketing information, (ix) provenance information, (x) 9
- information associated with a sale of the item, (xi) information associated with future 10
- 11 disposition of the item, (xii) information associated with disposal of the item, (xiii)
- information associated with reclaiming at least a portion of the item, and (xiv) 12
- 13 information associated with recycling at least a portion of the item.
- 24. The item of claim 23, wherein a plurality of item codes are printed on the 1
- 2 item surface.
- 25. A method of marking an item having an item surface, comprising: 1
- determining an item code associated with the item; and 2
- printing a plurality of machine-readable item codes on the item surface, at least 3
- one of the item codes being associated with the item and being substantially invisible to a 4
- 5 human.
- 26. An apparatus for marking an item, comprising: 1
- 2 a printing controller; and
- 3 a printing device in communication with the printing controller and adapted to
- print a plurality of machine-readable item codes on the item surface, at least one of the 4
- 5 item codes being associated with the item and being substantially invisible to a human.
- 27. An apparatus for determining information associated with an item, 1
- 2 comprising:
- 3 a detection controller; and
- a detecting device in communication with the detection controller and adapted to 4
- read at least one of a plurality of machine-readable item codes on the item surface, at 5



- 6 least one of the item codes being associated with the item and being substantially
- 7 invisible to a human.
- 1 28. The method of claim 27, wherein the detection controller is associated with at
- 2 least one of: (i) a point of sale system, (ii) an inventory system, (iii) a delivery service
- 3 system, (iv) an identification system, (v) a warehousing system, (vi) a smart shopping
- 4 cart system, (vii) a production system, and (viii) an assembly system.